

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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Transmitted via Email

July 31, 2007

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-7-23

SUBJECT: LTP – MODIFYING THE STATEWIDE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES  
PROGRAM (EQIP) CONSERVATION PRACTICE PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR 2008

**Action Due By: August 10 & 15, 2007**

Purpose. To request recommendations for the Statewide EQIP Conservation Practice Payment Schedule.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2007.

The EQIP Statewide Conservation Practice Payment Schedule is being prepared for FY 2008. For 2008 contracts, all practices nationwide will be contracted using the new payment schedule approach. The payment schedule eliminates the use of cost-share percentage and significantly reduces the use of components.

The new Minnesota payment schedule will still prescribe the individual eligible practices, the general provisions and the practice specific provisions for EQIP and look very similar to the old docket. The significant changes will occur in how costs are computed, the itemization of plan supporting practices, and ultimately how payments are made within the contract.

Offices should submit payment schedule recommendations for deleting or adding a practice, general state policies, practice specific policies, and changes to practice components. Include suggestions generated by the local work group (LWG) in this process. The recommendations, documentation, costs, and procedures developed for the payment schedule will also be reflected in other NRCS cost-share programs such as the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).

**Field staff should submit suggestions for the payment schedule to their NRCS Area Office by August 10, 2007. Area Offices will consolidate and submit suggestions to the NRCS State Office by August 15, 2007.**

Further information and training will be provided as the 2008 EQIP is rolled out.

Requests submitted to the Area Offices should be directed to the Area Resource Conservationist or Area Program Specialist with a courtesy copy to the respective Assistant State Conservationist. Submit Area summations to Tim Koehler, Assistant State Conservationist, and Sid Cornelius, Biologist.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT  
State Conservationist

DIST: MN – ASTC (FO), AO-ARC, ENG (A), DC, Area Program Specialist

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